

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

The principal feature of the present invention is, contrary to known solutions in the prior art which employ predetermined tension, the preselected control variable for controlling the working process is no longer the band tension but rather a preselected band loop length. In this regard the examiner's attention is drawn to, for example, paragraph [0010] through [0016] as well as elsewhere. New independent claim 12 has been presented so as to point out the distinguishing features between the method of the present invention and the prior art disclosed in Lyon. The Lyon reference teaches nothing more than that which is acknowledged as prior art in the instant application. In Lyon, the step of pulling back the band to a predetermined length is carried out (See column 5 lines 51-54 and claim 3 of Lyon). However, the actual tensioning of the band takes place only after this step of pulling back and tensioning will always be finished after attaining a predetermined tension as is well known in the prior art. This is in contrast to the present invention where there is no tensioning after reaching a predetermined loop length. After reaching the predetermined loop length, in accordance with the present invention, the band is fixed. Thus, the Lyon reference teaches nothing more than that which is acknowledged as prior art in the instant application. The method of the present invention as claimed in independent claim 12 is not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the Lyon reference.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 and dependent claims 2-9 and 11 which depend either directly or indirectly therefrom are all in condition for

allowance and the early issuance of a Notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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